



## Report of the Town Manager

April 10, 2017

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### 1. Financial Updates-

- a. MassDOT notified the Town that the FY18 Chapter 90 funds appropriated for Winchendon will be \$443,871, pending legislative approval. FY17 Chapter 90 funds were approved at \$445,566.
- b. I received a response from DOR on the status of my request to recalculate the FY18 Veterans Benefit revenue. The Veterans Agency will check the amount included in the House budget which comes out sometime in the middle of April. If the amount has not been corrected the Veterans Agency will follow up as to why. The Veterans Agency anticipates the anticipated revenue will be corrected.
- c. The Town was notified that due to an increase in Monty Tech's Chapter 70 revenues the Town would receive a credit in the amount of \$7,016 on the FY17 assessment.

### 2. Personnel Updates-

- a. Full time Dispatcher Rebecca Wood has resigned. Her position was filled by Samantha Cormier, a current per diem Dispatcher.

### 3. Project Updates-

- a. The Landfill solar project continues to move forward with an expected. Onyx expects to complete the project by the middle of May. Since the electrical permit fees have not been updated since 2011 a fee for solar arrays was never discussed and approved. Currently the fee would be \$50. The fee that would have applied to the Transfer Station solar project would be \$50. Knowing that fee is significantly less than it should be I asked Onyx if they would be willing to pay a higher fee knowing the fee they would be responsible for is \$50. Onyx informed me that they are willing to pay an electrical fee of \$10,000 which is consistent with what Onyx estimated in their project budget. Onyx's willingness to pay a fair fee is very much appreciated.
- b. Bids were opened for the Walnut Street Road reconstruction project. As a reminder this project is being funded primarily through a CDBG grant with \$90,000 coming from Chapter 90 funds. The apparent low bidder was GEG Construction Inc. from Springfield, MA with a bid of \$325,067.50. Tighe and Bond will be reviewing the bid submission for completeness. The project budget included \$368,000 for the road reconstruction so the apparent low bid is within the estimated budget.

- c. The Fire Department has been working on implementing the vacant building regulation here in town. Certified copies of the regulation have been sent out to the owners of the properties listed below. We started with vacant properties having the most possibility of loss of life in the event of an incident. These property owners have 14 days to respond and set up an inspection of their properties.

155 Mill Circle	83 Jackson Avenue
220 Maple Street	158 Franklin Street
337 Maple Street	283 Lincoln Avenue
407 Maple Street	14-18 Poplar Street
41 Woodlawn Avenue	75 Prospect Street
212-220 Central Street	273 Lincoln Avenue
	154 Mill Street

Glenallen Street (factory on 2.58 acres) Two buildings but same owner. No accurate number with Assessor.

Glenallen Street (factory on 1.67 acres)

**4. Miscellaneous Updates –**

- a. Al Gallant attended the preconstruction meeting for the repaving of a portion of Rte. 140 that is scheduled to occur beginning in May. The project scope includes micro milling and resurfacing the road from Teel Road to the intersection of Route 12, approximately 1.1 miles. When the road is restriped after the paving there will be no passing lanes on this section of roadway. The project will take approximately two weeks to complete. Al requested some of the road grindings for other Town roadwork and MassDOT agreed to provide some saving the Town money for material purchases.
- b. The Police Department is working with the Sherriff's Department to have the graffiti cleaned up at Kamenstein.
- c. Staff and I met with the Cumberland Farms project manager and engineer on Wednesday to discuss their redevelopment plans. Cumberland Farms will be closing the store on either April 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> to begin their project. Work will continue throughout the summer and anticipate opening just prior to Labor Day.
- d. Donna Spellman, Bill Schlosstein and I met with the heirs of the Morton E. Converse One Hundred Year Fund (Converse Fund), Mr. and Mrs. Barry K. Rogstad regarding the disbursement of funds to a variety of Winchendon organizations from the Converse Fund. The Converse Fund was established in 1917 and is to be distributed in accordance with the trust document. I have attached a copy of the document along with a letter sent by Mr. Rogstad providing the family's interpretation of the intent of the Fund. There is a question regarding whether the principal amount to each organization can be expended or not. That will require legal counsel. Once I receive some legal guidance on the principal balances I will schedule an item on the Selectmen's agenda.